



INQUIRIES

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WAGE RATES INDEXES, MARCH 1977 (PRELIMINARY)

MAIN FEATURES

- In March 1977 the weighted average minimum weekly wage rate showed an increase over February 1977 of \$5.36 (4.0 per cent) for adult males and \$5.48 (4.4 per cent) for adult females.
- Indexation rises in Federal awards and State awards (except Western Australian State awards) accounted for almost all of these increases.
- In the twelve months ended March 1977, 95 per cent of the increase in adult male award wage rates was attributable to indexation increases. For adult females the corresponding figure was 94 per cent.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

More information on these statistics of weighted average minimum weekly and hourly wage rates and index numbers for adult males and adult females will appear later in the monthly bulletin *Wage Rates and Earnings* (Reference No. 6.16) which also contains explanatory notes covering definitions, scope of the statistics, etc.

2. The wage rates used in the compilation of the indexes are the lowest rates for a full week's work (excluding overtime) prescribed for particular occupations in awards or determinations of Federal or State industrial authorities; in collective agreements registered with these authorities; or in unregistered collective agreements where these are dominant in particular industries. The indexes are designed to

measure movements in prescribed minimum rates of wages as distinct from salaries; those awards, etc. which relate solely or mainly to salary earners are therefore excluded. Because of delays in the receipt of notification of changes in wage rates as well as retrospective changes to rates, figures for the latest twelve months shown are subject to revision. As such revisions are made they are published in the normal monthly tables of this statement.

3. The indexes are designed to measure trends in wage rates in current awards, etc. excluding the effects of changes in the relative importance of industries, awards and occupations. The weighted average wage rates shown in these tables are therefore indexes expressed in money terms, and do not purport to be actual current averages. Similarly, neither these weighted average wage rates nor the corresponding index numbers measure the relative levels of average current wage rates as between States or industries.

4. For adult males the weekly wage rates exclude rural industry; in addition the hourly rates exclude shipping and stevedoring, for which data to compute hourly wages are not available. The weekly and hourly wage rates for adult females exclude rural industry, mining and quarrying and building and construction.

5. The annual changes shown in Tables 1, 2 and 4 measure the percentage change from the same month for the previous year. The percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes.

TABLE 1. WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES: ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES
ALL INDUSTRY GROUPS, AUSTRALIA (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; weighted average minimum hourly rates payable; and index numbers of wage rates.

End of -	Adult males					Adult females				
	Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates		Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates	
	Wage rates \$	Annual change(a) %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)	Wage rates \$	Annual change(a) %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)
1976 -										
March	125.78	17.1	445.4	313.86	443.6	115.89	20.8	582.1	292.12	582.3
April	125.87	17.0	445.7	314.07	443.9	116.34	20.5	584.4	293.26	584.5
May	129.51	15.2	458.6	323.22	456.8	119.84	17.6	602.0	302.09	602.1
June	129.63	14.9	459.0	323.52	457.3	119.88	15.2	602.2	302.19	602.3
July	129.66	14.7	459.1	323.61	457.4	119.93	14.8	602.4	302.31	602.6
August	132.29	16.8	468.4	330.21	466.7	122.50	17.0	615.3	308.80	615.5
September	132.31	12.4	468.5	330.25	466.8	122.50	13.1	615.3	308.80	615.5
October	132.30	12.4	468.5	330.24	466.8	122.52	13.1	615.4	308.85	615.6
November	135.08	14.7	478.3	337.17	476.6	125.23	15.6	629.1	315.68	629.2
December	135.10	14.5	478.4	337.22	476.6	125.24	15.3	629.1	315.69	629.3
1977 -										
January	135.14	14.4	478.5	337.33	476.8	125.26	15.3	629.2	315.74	629.3
February	135.40	7.7	479.4	337.98	477.7	125.49	8.3	630.4	316.33	630.5
March	140.76	11.9	498.4	351.44	496.7	130.97	13.0	657.9	330.14	658.0

(a) See explanatory notes above. (b) Base: Weighted average wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100.

TABLE 2. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 MARCH 1977 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (\$)							Annual change (a) %	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100) (b)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	Australia	Australia
Mining and quarrying (c)	193.58	136.77	176.24	132.81	142.48	151.77	175.38	11.8	621.0
Manufacturing -									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	129.19	134.79	140.82	132.69	131.61	133.47	132.41	12.5	468.8
Textiles, clothing and footwear	129.38	130.23	131.75	129.07	133.17	125.82	129.93	12.6	460.1
Food, drink and tobacco	137.03	137.12	141.11	132.49	139.47	135.30	137.60	12.3	487.2
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	135.58	128.83	140.08	128.57	129.99	128.11	133.45	12.1	472.5
Paper, printing, etc.	137.33	145.13	153.52	143.10	137.52	137.69	141.84	11.8	502.2
Other manufacturing	134.97	135.80	136.44	134.82	132.91	129.72	135.11	12.4	478.4
All manufacturing groups	132.11	134.98	140.57	133.14	132.99	132.63	134.08	12.4	474.7
Building and construction	155.86	154.71	143.97	150.18	137.65	141.28	150.70	10.9	533.6
Railway services	128.29	123.48	144.17	128.50	110.54	128.82	129.55	11.7	458.7
Road and air transport	143.44	135.42	135.15	134.88	139.29	138.31	139.01	11.9	492.2
Shipping and stevedoring (e)	171.65	172.54	165.00	163.27	172.23	169.38	169.64	10.1	600.7
Communication	166.58	167.40	166.19	165.39	167.09	162.53	166.55	10.3	589.7
Wholesale and retail trade	140.77	142.38	141.91	137.89	137.08	142.42	140.84	12.1	498.7
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	145.63	142.37	147.83	134.86	145.42	154.53	144.57	12.9	511.9
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	133.81	130.07	133.18	125.92	119.37	124.73	130.61	12.3	462.5
All industry groups (a)	141.70	139.68	144.84	137.92	135.90	139.85	140.76	11.9	498.4

For footnotes see Table below.

TABLE 3. HOURLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 MARCH 1977 (a)

Weighted average minimum hourly rates payable and index numbers of hourly rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (cents)							Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100) (b)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	Australia
Mining and quarrying (c)	541.51	341.94	465.23	332.02	373.34	387.98	473.23	668.9
Manufacturing -								
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	323.08	337.22	352.26	331.73	329.32	333.68	331.18	468.1
Textiles, clothing and footwear	323.44	325.57	329.38	322.68	332.92	314.54	324.84	459.1
Food, drink and tobacco	343.06	342.80	352.78	331.22	348.67	338.25	344.16	486.5
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	338.95	322.08	350.21	321.43	324.98	320.28	333.62	471.6
Paper, printing, etc.	343.33	363.34	383.80	357.75	350.74	344.24	355.05	501.8
Other manufacturing	337.42	339.80	341.10	337.85	331.50	324.58	337.91	477.6
All manufacturing groups	330.38	337.64	351.51	333.00	332.74	331.61	335.33	474.0
Building and construction (d)	389.66	386.77	359.92	375.44	344.12	353.20	376.74	532.5
Railway services	320.72	309.03	360.42	321.25	276.34	322.05	323.95	457.9
Road and air transport	358.59	338.54	337.88	337.21	348.22	345.78	347.52	491.2
Communication	427.29	431.10	427.98	430.99	430.29	419.09	428.68	605.9
Wholesale and retail trade	351.93	355.96	354.77	344.74	342.70	356.06	352.09	497.7
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	371.24	365.68	374.03	343.76	367.41	392.32	368.32	520.6
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	334.52	325.19	332.95	314.80	298.42	311.83	326.52	461.5
All industry groups (a)	354.75	348.17	361.83	343.15	338.81	346.08	351.44	496.7

(a) See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Base: Weighted average wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (c) For mining, wage rates used are those prescribed for the principal mining centres and include lead bonuses, etc. (d) The weekly rates used in the index for occupations specified in the National Building Trades Construction Award include the weekly base rate of pay, the special allowance and the industry allowance. (e) Includes wage rates (and value of keep) for occupations in the coastal shipping service, other than masters, officers and engineers.

TABLE 4. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT FEMALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 MARCH 1977 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (\$)						Annual Index Nos. change (a) (Base 1954 = % 100) (b)	
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	Australia
Manufacturing —								
Engineering, metals, vehicles etc.	126.51	133.29	128.77	127.59	130.22	128.26	129.04	13.1
Textiles, clothing and footwear	123.10	121.38	124.27	124.37	125.22	115.58	122.35	13.7
Food, drink and tobacco	130.79	130.67	131.64	128.01	117.93	126.19	129.82	13.1
Other manufacturing	128.26	130.29	131.54	127.15	127.34	123.73	129.04	13.1
All manufacturing groups	125.96	125.82	127.91	126.68	124.61	121.47	125.97	13.4
Transport and communication	132.80	134.83	139.11	137.79	132.44	140.20	134.94	12.9
Wholesale and retail trade	138.52	142.16	139.09	137.67	135.70	131.69	139.07	12.7
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	138.10	137.82	135.08	128.51	132.36	135.29	136.56	12.7
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	128.61	126.38	127.12	122.60	112.37	120.98	126.01	12.8
All industry groups (a)	131.01	130.84	133.32	130.81	128.64	126.80	130.97	13.0

(a) See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Base : Weighted average weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100.

TABLE 5. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES, ALL GROUPS (a) (\$)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

End of —	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
							Federal awards, etc.	State awards, etc.	All awards, etc.
ADULT MALES (a)									
1976 —									
March	126.62	124.71	129.77	122.76	121.73	125.05	126.79	124.56	125.78
April	126.69	124.75	129.86	123.09	121.83	125.07	126.81	124.72	125.87
May	130.36	128.35	133.56	126.74	125.37	128.76	130.48	128.34	129.51
June	130.46	128.59	133.60	126.80	125.43	128.79	130.52	128.55	129.63
July	130.49	128.62	133.60	126.81	125.56	128.80	130.52	128.62	129.66
August	133.14	131.17	136.11	129.37	128.76	131.35	133.07	131.35	132.29
September	133.16	131.17	136.11	129.38	128.84	131.35	133.07	131.38	132.31
October	133.14	131.17	136.11	129.38	128.91	131.35	133.07	131.37	132.30
November	135.86	133.99	139.12	132.17	131.39	134.15	135.91	134.08	135.08
December	135.89	133.99	139.14	132.19	131.39	134.15	135.91	134.12	135.10
1977 —									
January	135.99	133.99	139.14	132.23	131.44	134.15	135.91	134.22	135.14
February	135.97	133.99	139.14	132.23	135.17	134.15	135.91	134.78	135.40
March	141.70	139.68	144.84	137.92	135.90	139.85	141.61	139.75	140.76
ADULT FEMALES (a)									
1976 —									
March	116.20	116.24	118.13	113.41	111.57	112.33	109.38	121.54	115.89
April	116.46	116.53	118.32	116.35	111.74	112.44	109.83	121.99	116.34
May	120.07	119.94	121.85	119.84	114.89	115.97	113.11	125.69	119.84
June	120.07	119.94	122.04	119.84	115.28	115.97	113.11	125.76	119.88
July	120.07	119.94	122.04	119.84	116.17	115.97	113.11	125.85	119.93
August	122.61	122.46	124.51	122.35	119.68	118.49	115.63	128.47	122.50
September	122.61	122.46	124.51	122.35	119.71	118.49	115.63	128.47	122.50
October	122.61	122.46	124.51	122.35	120.08	118.49	115.63	128.51	122.52
November	125.31	125.14	127.61	125.04	122.40	121.10	118.18	131.36	125.23
December	125.31	125.14	127.61	125.11	122.40	121.10	118.18	131.37	125.24
1977 —									
January	125.31	125.14	127.61	125.11	122.78	121.10	118.18	131.41	125.26
February	125.31	125.14	127.62	125.11	127.22	121.10	118.18	131.84	125.49
March	131.01	130.84	133.32	130.81	128.64	126.80	123.88	137.12	130.97

(a) See explanatory notes on page 1.

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TABLE 6. DISTRIBUTION OF WEEKLY WAGE RATES : WAGE RATES INDEXES, MARCH 1977 (a)

Weekly wage rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime) as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
ADULT MALES							
Weekly wage rates (\$) –	Proportion of index weights in each weekly wage rates group (per cent)						
Less than 104.99	..	..	..	..	6.3	..	0.4
105.00 to 109.99	1.7	0.5	2.1	1.5	5.3	0.3	1.6
110.00 to 114.99	4.9	5.1	1.1	6.1	3.7	2.4	4.4
115.00 to 119.99	8.7	7.0	1.2	6.1	9.6	6.6	7.0
120.00 to 124.99	7.3	10.9	8.0	9.0	10.0	14.0	9.0
125.00 to 129.99	9.0	7.7	7.3	8.9	3.4	12.7	8.1
130.00 to 134.99	8.3	9.3	18.5	9.9	6.4	8.3	10.0
135.00 to 139.99	13.6	25.4	8.9	26.5	14.9	12.9	17.5
140.00 to 144.99	14.2	6.8	14.0	6.5	8.7	15.1	11.0
145.00 to 149.99	5.4	7.5	3.0	6.2	11.4	3.6	6.1
150.00 to 154.99	3.7	2.5	9.2	1.1	2.7	4.9	3.9
155.00 to 159.99	4.9	2.3	5.9	4.5	8.8	2.3	4.5
160.00 to 169.99	6.6	6.3	6.5	5.6	3.1	4.9	6.1
170.00 to 179.99	2.3	1.6	10.1	6.7	2.1	9.8	3.8
180.00 to 189.99	5.3	4.6	1.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	3.6
190.00 to 199.99	2.0	1.8	2.1	0.2	1.7	0.9	1.7
200.00 and over	2.1	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.6	0.8	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Weighted average (mean)(\$)	141.70	139.68	144.84	137.92	135.90	139.85	140.76
Median (\$ (b))	137.00	135.60	141.60	135.80	136.80	136.50	137.00
Proportion of weekly rates equal to the minimum wage (per cent)							
Federal awards, etc.	..	0.3	..	0.2	..	0.4	0.1
State awards, etc.	2.3	*	2.4	2.4	2.2	0.4	2.2
All awards, etc.	1.0	0.2	1.8	0.8	1.9	0.4	1.1
ADULT FEMALES							
Weekly wage rates (\$) –	Proportion of index weights in each weekly wage rates group (per cent)						
Less than 104.99	..	..	..	..	0.5	..	*
105.00 to 109.99	1.8	1.1	1.0	3.3	8.9	1.4	2.0
110.00 to 114.99	4.2	12.3	4.6	13.5	9.2	17.8	8.2
115.00 to 119.99	11.4	9.6	2.5	1.9	3.9	12.0	8.8
120.00 to 124.99	27.0	26.8	18.6	17.5	13.4	24.2	24.6
125.00 to 129.99	4.8	3.2	11.4	6.5	6.7	9.5	5.3
130.00 to 134.99	7.4	6.4	16.3	6.9	12.1	4.5	8.2
135.00 to 139.99	4.6	14.5	15.6	33.7	23.4	4.7	12.1
140.00 to 144.99	24.2	0.8	23.0	14.6	19.1	23.6	15.4
145.00 to 149.99	13.6	12.2	5.2	0.1	0.8	0.4	10.3
150.00 to 154.99	0.8	11.5	1.3	1.3	0.6	1.1	4.4
155.00 to 159.99	0.2	1.2	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.6
160.00 and over	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Weighted average (mean)(\$)	131.01	130.84	133.32	130.81	128.64	126.80	130.97
Median (\$ (b))	132.30	124.40	134.58	135.45	134.84	124.60	131.70
Proportion of weekly rates equal to the minimum wage (per cent)							
Federal awards, etc.	0.5	1.8	..	1.0	2.2	..	1.0
State awards, etc.	1.7	..	1.5	1.2	1.0	2.8	1.1
All awards, etc.	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.1

(a) This table shows the distribution of weekly wage rates included in the wage rates indexes, the weighted averages and medians of the indexes, and the percentage of index weights for wage rates equal to the various minimum wages. Comparable figures for November 1976 may be found in the November issue of this statement. (b) The median divides a distribution into two equal groups, one group having rates equal to or above the median and the other having rates equal to or below it, each group having 50 per cent of the relevant weights. * Less than 0.05 per cent. .. Nil.

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